

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING February 22, 2019

Members Present:

Manny Atwood	Cassandra Bond
Cecil Dolecheck	Tim Fitzgibbon
Rachael Johnson	Katie Mulholland
Mark Putnam	Herman Quirmbach
Doug Shull	Barbara Sloniker
Emily Stork	Jeremy Varner
Cindy Winckler	

Members Absent:

Michael Ash	Cecil Dolecheck
Tim Kraayenbrink	Jeremy Varner

AG Present:

Emily Willits

Staff Present:

Todd Brown	Prasanna Bujimalla
Laura Ingleby	Elizabeth Keest-Sedrel
Karen Misjak	Julie Ntem
Lisa Pundt	Christina Sibaouih
Carolyn Small	Ashley Wendt
Mark Wiederspan	

Guests Present:

Rachel Boon	Board of Regents
Angela Carlson	Capri College

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on February 22, 2019 at Commission's Office, 475 SW 5th Street, Suite D., Des Moines, Iowa. Commission Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak said the FAFSA Completion Initiative is currently in its 5th year of working with high school counselors to increase the FAFSA Completion Rate. All 343 schools have data sharing agreements signed. Ms. Misjak thanked Commissioner Atwood for assisting in reaching out to a local school to get their agreement signed. Ms. Misjak shared that Iowa is the only state that has streamlined this process and because of that, the Commission is receiving national attention. Ms. Misjak said to date 44 % of Iowa seniors have completed the FAFSA and as of February 8, 2019, Iowa is currently ranked 17th in the country, with Iowa having the most schools submitting FAFSA data.

Ms. Misjak shared while in Washington DC for the NCHER Conference and visits with congressional staff, there was a push with Higher Education Reauthorization to include simplifying the FAFSA form. Staffers wanted to ensure we would continue to receive the information from the fields that would allow us to award state aid without an additional form.

Ms. Misjak said staff are hosting the annual GEAR UP Conference in Ames next week. Staff is concerned with the weather but are hopeful for a good turnout in attendance. The first day of the conference will include a guest speaker and peer sharing. Ms. Misjak continued that the second day will be a workday to help the schools plan and share ideas for the next school year. Ms. Misjak added the cohort is in their junior year and we are promoting students to prepare and take the ACT. Ms. Misjak said planning for the cohort's senior year would include a push for FAFSA completion and completing college applications.

Ms. Misjak said the Governor's budget recommended funding for the programs in the Future Ready Iowa Act that passed legislation last year. The Last Dollar Scholarship Program and the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Grant funding recommendation have been shared with Commissioners. Ms. Misjak noted Todd Brown has been working on Administrative Rules around these two programs. Drafts of these rules have not yet been shared. Commissioner Winckler noted legislators have noticed they are not recognizing health care as an area of high need and hopes there is some way better alignment could be met based on community needs. Ms. Misjak said Christina Sibaoui

has been working with Volunteer Iowa to implement the mentoring piece of the legislation. Volunteer Iowa will receive the funding and the Commission will manage the program.

Ms. Misjak announced that the Commission's website has been updated and launched. She recognized the Communication's staff for all of their hard work with the transfer of our website. Ms. Keest-Sedrel showed Commissioners the updated website and thanked her team as well. Commissioner Johnson complemented the website and shared how easy it was to maneuver.

Minutes of Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the meeting minutes for the November 16, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Administrative Rules

Mr. Brown explained the two rules before the Commission reflect minor changes to the rules. There were no comments or concerns presented and no changes have been made since the last board meeting where these amendments were proposed.

Motion: Commissioner Sloniker moved to adopt amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 1 – "Organization and Operation". Commissioner Stork seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Atwood moved to adopt amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 34- "Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator Loan Forgiveness Program". Commissioner Sloniker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Gold Bridge Partners, Inc. Contract Extension

Ms. Ntem said the Commission signed a contract in June, 2014 with Gold Bridge Partners, Inc. for customization, configuration and implementation of a secure web-based system, which is developed specifically for the administration of grant, scholarship and loan repayment programs. Ms. Ntem added that this contract permits five one-year extensions and staff is requesting to exercise the final of the allowable extensions. The

renewal contract term period is for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Ms. Ntem said there will have to be a RFP process before the board in the next year for this service.

Motion: Commissioner Putnam moved to authorize staff to exercise the option for a one-year extension of the State Scholarship, Grant and Loan Repayment Application and Procession System contract with Gold Bridge Partners, Inc. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

GEAR UP Iowa Evaluation Adviser Contract Extension

Ms. Sibaouih said staff is requesting to exercise the second of three one-year extensions for outside evaluation advisory services for the GEAR UP Iowa grant. This extension will take us through the end of the GEAR UP grant.

Motion: Commissioner Stork moved to authorize staff to exercise the option for a one-year extension of the GEAR UP Iowa Evaluation Adviser Contract with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). Commissioner Atwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Iowa College and Career Readiness Academy Facilitator Contracts

Ms. Sibbel shared with Commissioners how the Iowa College and Career Readiness Academy was created and the courses that are offered through the academy are taught by trained facilitators. Ms. Sibbel said these courses are designed specifically to meet the needs of college and career access professionals in Iowa. Ms. Sibbel showed Commissioners how staff track and monitor enrollment by sharing dashboards within Salesforce. In response to a question from Commissioner Quirnbach, Ms. Sibaouih said there are currently six facilitators, which are funded by the strategic reserve fund. Ms. Misjak said we are unsure how much the cost will be until responses are received from the request for proposals.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to authorize staff to issue a request for proposals for Facilitators of the Iowa College and Career Readiness Academy courses. Commissioner Sloniker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Text Service Vendor RFP

Ms. Sibaouih said staff are requesting to issue a request for proposals for a texting service vendor to support Commission programs using funds from AmeriCorps grant and Volunteer Iowa. Commissioner Putnam shared that most campuses have a platform like this and to make sure that staff requests a multi-platform functionality which is a great way to reach a large audience quickly. Ms. Sibaouih said this would support Future Ready Iowa and will assist the GEAR UP Iowa program as well.

Motion: Commissioner Putnam moved to authorize staff to issue a request for proposals for a texting service vendor to support Commission programs. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ITG Report

Ms. Ingleby provided an overview of the report titled "Need-Based Aid for Private, Not-for-Profit Colleges—The Iowa Tuition Grant".

Commission Quirnbach questioned if the impact to the Iowa Tuition Grant is to simply shift students from the public colleges to the private colleges and feels the first priority should be getting the kids to college and should not be as high of a priority as to which sector they are going to.

Commissioner Putnam replied to the comment made by Commission Quirnbach that his opposition is to the legislative intent in 1969. The legislative intent was to address the increase in demand at Iowa's three public four year institutions by offsetting the costs at private not-for-profit four year institutions. The intent was to redistribute enrollment to capacities that exist at the independent colleges.

Commissioner Quirnbach responded that we are in a much different demographic situation today than half a century ago. Commissioner Putnam said it would require work of the legislature to make changes and in response to Commission Quirnbach said he does not feel it is the role of the Commission to substitute its judgement for the policies established by the legislature.

Commissioner Mulholland said this is a discussion to talk about the pros and cons and the success rate of the Iowa Tuition Grant per the original wording in the legislation in the report presented. She continued that Commissioner Quirnbach's point is well made and that it opens up more questions and avenues for further discussion.

Commissioner Winckler said at the time the program was created to keep students in Iowa, there were more students that were graduating high school than housing available at the regent universities and that there was a difference in the costs of private colleges (independent colleges and universities) and this was created to assist in the difference. Commissioner Winckler continued because there is such a high EFC for the Iowa Tuition Grant that does not exist in the other grants that are available. There are fewer students that are eligible for funding in the other programs because the EFC cut off is much lower. The award amounts are different as well. That all has an impact on students.

Ms. Misjak said the awarding parameters are looked at for all programs. Adjustments are made sometimes based on what is appropriated. The Private Colleges requested that staff look at the EFC and the current \$13,500 amount that was established in 2010. Ms. Misjak felt this needed to be brought before the board since ITG is the largest program administered by the Commission. Ms. Misjak said staff believe the EFC needs to be raised for ITG. In response to a question from Commissioner Mulholland, Ms. Misjak said the decision to raise the EFC has always been done as a staff decision and not voted on by the Commission. Commissioner Putnam said the request from Private Colleges to review the EFC was because of the changes that have occurred since the last review. Ms. Misjak said salaries have changed in the last 10 years and that staff knows that middle-income families do not qualify for state aid programs.

Commissioner Winckler said that state aid has continued to grow. The All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship is the only scholarship that Regents can qualify for unless it is career specific or National Guard. They never get past the first three priority groups because of the amount of money that is appropriated. Commissioner Winckler continued, the only way we have for increasing the aid is to increase the general aid to the Regent Universities or to increase the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship. There are other factors that legislators have to look at. Commissioner Winckler said legislators want all students to have access to higher education.

Commissioner Mulholland requested staff to provide a one page document that includes all of the programs the Commission administers, and their criteria to Commissioners. It makes sense to advocate for the things within these programs that should be changed for the future and feels it would be helpful to provide this information to Commissioners.

Audit and Finance Committee

Commissioner Fitzgibbon shared that the Audit and Finance Committee met and that there is no report at this time.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Brown provided a report of current bills that staff are following. He said staff is currently drafting rules for Future Ready Iowa (FRI), pending funding approvals from the legislature. HSB 179 puts FRI appropriations into bill format and that it is scheduled for subcommittee on Monday. Commissioner Winckler said part of FRI funding is in the education budget and part is in the economic development budget. Discussion is intended to be had around the bill, and we will continue to see it in separate budgets as it moves forward.

Board Structure Subcommittee

Commission Chair Mulholland shared that the Board Structure Sub-Committee met prior to Commission meeting and that the committee's action plan is almost complete. She continued that they received an update on the Strategic Plan as well as an update on upcoming research projects. Commissioner Mulholland commended staff with the incredible amount of networking that is being done within the research department.

Staff Report

Ms. Bujimalla provided an update on the FY 2019 year-to-date financials and added that the financials will be presented in a different format for the next Commission meeting based on discussions and adjustments made during the Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

Ms. Small provided a report on Postsecondary Registration Approvals as well as Exemption and SARA approvals, and provided a list of Exemption Applications that are currently under review. Ms. Small also provided an update on the Dream Center and that they no longer have the authorization to accepting Iowa enrollment.

Mr. Wiederspan provided an overview of the Impact of Verification on Iowa FAFSA Filers paper that he authored.

Ms. Keest-Sedrel presented an overview of the Annual Report.

Commissioner Comments

Chair Mulholland requested that Commissioners review their schedules to possibly change the May Commission meeting date from May 17, 2019 to May 10, 2019. More communication will be sent out soon.

Chair Mulholland appointed a subcommittee to work on Community Engagement, this subcommittee was written into the Strategic Plan and will help fulfill goal 2 strategy 5. The members appointed are Barbara Sloniker, Cassandra Bond, Manny Atwood and Katie Mulholland. Chair Mulholland said a report would be provided at the May Commission Meeting.

Chair Mulholland shared that she attended a presentation given by Karen Misjak and Todd Brown to the Joint Education Appropriations Committee. She continued that they did a great job. Ms. Misjak felt it went well and that all members were engaged. Commissioner Winckler shared that there are a lot of new members on this committee and it was great to share what we do for the students in the state of Iowa.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.



Katie Mulholland, Chair



Doug Shull, Vice Chair